

INL *Intelligence*

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A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory
Work at the lab advances the Department's strategic goals in the areas of energy, environment, defense and science.

■ Laboratory Researchers' Work Honored

For the 10th year in a row, the efforts of INL researchers have been recognized with prestigious R&D 100 awards. The awards acknowledge the 100 most significant technological breakthroughs of the year, as determined by a judging panel assembled by R&D Magazine. In this latest competition, four INL technologies that represent the best efforts of 22 INL scientists and engineers were singled out. The four include a technology for removing arsenic from drinking water, a highly efficient process for producing liquefied natural gas, a method for making robots more capable, and an enzyme that improves the conversion of plant materials into simple sugars that can then be converted into fuels and useful chemicals. "Being selected in this way credits the scientific eminence of our employees and recognizes the lab's standout accomplishments in science and technology. This is the kind of success that sets INL apart as one of the nation's respected research institutions," said INL Chief Research Officer J.W. Rogers, Jr.

■ Security Officials View INL Capabilities

Earlier this month, INL held a two-day Security Technology Exposition to demonstrate more than 20 of its advanced technologies to some of the federal government's most senior security officials. The event proved that the incorporation of emerging technologies – including long- and short-range radar systems, unmanned aerial vehicles and commercial armored vehicles – could help increase the safety of protective force members, reduce operational costs and provide better detection of incoming threats at DOE facilities. The event was held in conjunction with DOE's offices of Security and Safety Performance Assurance, Nuclear Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

■ New Congressional Fellow to Hail from Idaho

The American Nuclear Society has selected David Barber, an engineer and physicist at INL, as its Glenn T. Seaborg Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow for 2007. In this year-long role, Barber will be tasked with providing advice and counsel on a variety of scientific topics, including those relating to nuclear energy, to a member of Congress. In turn, the position will give Barber the opportunity to gain a better understanding of how science and technology funding and policy decisions are made. Barber has worked for INL for 12 years and currently works on pyroprocessing technology development.

■ Wind Studies Continue

INL and its collaborators recently relocated a 20-meter anemometer and helped assemble and install Idaho State University's new 50-meter anemometer in the foothills west of Pocatello. The work was performed to make it easier for researchers to obtain the wind shear data necessary to assess the true wind power generating potential of this mountain site. Since 2000, INL has helped more than 50 developers gather the technical data necessary to have confidence in their wind energy investment plans.

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